As the season changes, the International Masonry Institute (IMI) springs into action with the Masonry for Building Officials program at the 2018 Indiana Code Education Conference. David Collins, IMI Director, was invited by Brian Baker, of the Indiana Association of Building Officials, to present this program at the conference held in Grand Wayne Convention Center in Fort Wayne, Indiana on April 24, 2018. This was an opportunity IMI could not pass up as building officials from all across the state of Indiana can learn about the importance of masonry within building inspections. This was apparent as a room full of 30 building officials were eager to learn this pertinent information. Masonry for Building Officials started in Northwest Indiana in 2006 and continues to this day, so building officials will be familiar with the constant Indiana code changes.

David Collins stressed the importance of understanding masonry codes and standards for proper building inspections, especially updated codes from the 2012 International Residential Codes and 2015 International Building Code. Several building inspectors mentioned Indiana previously operated under the 2003 International Residential Code and now operates under the 2018...
International Residential Code, which was recently adopted. Also within the late 1990s and early 2000s, the state of Indiana deregulated special inspections of buildings. With the upswing of educated code officials within the state, it is important to continue education. Other topics included movement joints, cavity walls, flashing, masonry accessories, and masonry wall systems, which are important for building officials to be aware of during inspections. Following these topics, Collins also went over several chapters within the International Residential Codes and International Building Codes such as wall coverings, IRC Indiana amendments, exterior walls, structural design, special inspections, and masonry.

The program ended on a great note with a round of applause from everyone in the room. Several building officials spoke with David Collins at the end and asked questions. They were most appreciative of the manuals they received, which included the presentation, masonry inspection checklist, ASTM references and 2015 Indiana Residential and Building Codes. With the manuals, the building officials have instant access to pertinent information, especially for those who keep a crate of their materials in their vehicles.

The Indiana building officials not only walked away with a resource manual of all this information, but with the knowledge of how masonry codes and standards will help them be successful during inspections.